

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /094 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:REGTRIBBIN:DMA
APPROVED BY AF/C:LDJUNIOR
PM/SAS:CCECIL

-----128648 090629Z /23

R 082352Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 146122

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, RW

SUBJECT:RENEWED RWANDAN MILITARY REQUEST

1. RWANDAN AMBASSADOR UBALIJORO DISCUSSED WITH RWANDAN
DESK OFFICER POSSIBILITY OF RENEWING RWANDA'S MILITARY
REQUEST. HE NOTED THAT ALL OF THE RATIONALE WHICH MADE THE
REQUEST VALID LAST YEAR REMAINS VALID AND THAT CIRCUMSTANCES
HAVE PROVIDED ADDITIONAL REASONS TO SUPPORT THE REQUEST.

2. THE AMBASSADOR ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ZAIRIAN STABILITY IS
VERY IMPORTANT TO RWANDA AND THAT CONVERSELY RWANDA IS
THE MOST STABLE REGIME ON ZAIRE'S VULNERABLE EASTERN
FLANK. (COMMENT: THE AMBASSADOR IS CORRECT. TANZANIA
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AND ZAIRE'S RELATIONS ARE POOR AND TANZANIA ACQUIESCES
TO, IF NOT SUPPORTS, THE PRP, WHICH IS AIMED AT MOBUTU'S
OVERTHROW. BURUNDI SIMILARLY DEALS WITH DISSIDENT GROUPS
AND PERMITS THE USE OF ITS COUNTRY AND AIRPORTS FOR THEIR
TRAVEL TO EUROPE. UGANDA IS CLEARLY UNSTABLE AND UNRE-
LIABLE.) THE AMBASSADOR ALSO NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH IT IS
NOT GEOGRAPHICALLY CONTIGUOUS, THE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC

ORDER IN THE SHABA WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO RWANDA AS MANY

RWANDANS ARE HIGHLY-SKILLED LABORERS WORKING IN THE SHABAN MINES (COMMENT: EARLY REPORTS INDICATED THAT 50 RWANDANS WERE AMONG THE EXPATRIATE GROUP IN KOLWEZI). THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED HIS VIEW THAT IF PROPERLY TRAINED AND EQUIPPED, WHICH WOULD BE THE GOAL OF THE RWANDAN MILITARY REQUEST OF THE U.S., THE RWANDAN ARMY COULD, IF REQUIRED, PROVIDE STABILIZING PRESENCE IN EASTERN KIVU. RWANDANS SPEAK LOCAL LANGUAGE AND ARE WELL-MOTIVATED AND DISCIPLINED SOLDIERS. THE AMBASSADOR BELIEVED THAT THESE ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS STRENGTHEN RWANDAN REQUEST FOR MODEST MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM THE USG.

3. DESK OFFICER NOTED THAT QUESTION OF U.S. SECURITY POLICY IN AFRICA HAD BEEN FORCED TO THE FOREFRONT BY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HORN AND IN ZAIRE. IN LIGHT OF THE CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES THE DEPARTMENT IS AGAIN REVIEWING SECURITY POLICY AND THAT WHILE NO MODIFICATIONS COULD BE PREDICTED, THE AMBASSADOR'S THOUGHTS ON THE RWANDAN PREDICAMENT WERE GERMANE AND WOULD BE INCLUDED IN OUR DELIBERATIONS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, NATIONAL SECURITY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE146122
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: REGRIBBIN:DMA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780241-0028
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780680/aaaacqmw.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4ba7468d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2431977
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RENEWED RWANDAN MILITARY REQUEST
TAGS: MASS, RW, CG
To: KIGALI KINSHASA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4ba7468d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014